

**August 21, 2012**

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

**The Detroit News: Snyder petitions to block Michigan collective bargaining ballot proposal; Elections director: Appeals Court must decide by Aug. 27**

"Gov. Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette filed court papers Monday to try to block a statewide ballot initiative that seeks to protect collective bargaining rights.... The state Court of Appeals will hold a hearing Wednesday on the ballot initiative.... In addition to filing a motion with the Court of Appeals, [Andrew] Nickelhoff applied for an 'emergency bypass' from the Michigan Supreme Court, asking that it immediately decide the issue rather than wait for an appeals court ruling. State Elections Director Chris Thomas has said he needs a decision by Aug. 27 to place the issue on the Nov. 6 election ballot."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Detroit Free Press: Snyder, AG: Keep union proposal off ballot (sixth article)**

[Full story](#)

**Associated Press: Snyder tries to scuttle worker rights proposal**

[Full story](#)

**MLive.com: Attorney General Schuette, Gov. Snyder join court battle against union-backed Protect Our Jobs proposal**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Retired judge elected chair of Wayne ethics board**

"Wayne County Commission Chair Gary Woronchak welcomed the seven members of the newly formed ethics board to their inaugural meeting Monday by saying it was a good day for the county.... Retired Third Circuit Court Judge William Giovan was elected chair of the board."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Detroit Free Press: Ethics and operations central issues as new Wayne County board meets**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Detroit's top city lawyer won't block bond refinance deal**

"The top lawyer for the City of Detroit won't stand in the way this week of a bond deal expected to generate \$137 million for the cash-strapped city, a state official said Monday."

[Full story](#)

**The Daily News/Greenville: Montcalm County commissioners plan upcoming budget, cuts**

"... This year, [Sheriff Bill Barnwell] is being asked to make \$345,000 in cuts, or about half of the county's \$730,000 in cuts. According to Barnwell, \$345,000 in cuts comprises almost 16 percent of the sheriff's office budget and court security budget.... A court rover position would also likely be eliminated."

[Full story](#)

**The Daily News/Greenville: 64B District Court Judge Arney Mustonen was 'people's judge'**

"Judge Arney Mustonen was Judge Wapner before Wapner was judge. So says Mustonen's wife, Sylvia, comparing her husband to the judge and TV personality on 'The People's Court.' Mustonen served two

six-year terms as judge of 64B District Court in Montcalm County. He died Aug. 3 in Ohio at the age of 73.... Mustonen's family will host a memorial celebration of his life from 3 to 7 p.m. Sept. 8 at Candlestone Inn in Belding."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: UDM Inn of Court**

"The recent University of Detroit Mercy School of Law American Inn of Court Annual Meeting was held at the Detroit Athletic Club. Masters of the Bench with the Inn include... Wayne County Circuit Judge Jeanne Stempien."

[Full story](#)

### **Flint Journal: Group to review if DHS missed court-imposed deadline for processing cash assistance applications**

"A Genesee Circuit Court judge ruled [Monday] that the state Department of Human Resources must turn over information on whether or not it met a court-imposed deadline on reviewing applications for cash assistance.... [Genesee Circuit Judge Geoffrey] Neithercut imposed the [August 10] deadline during a show cause hearing in July after the Center for Civil Justice, a Saginaw-based advocacy group, sought to have DHS found in contempt of court for failing to review the applications in a timely manner."

[Full story](#)

### **Grand Rapids Press: Former Howell judge to oversee State Tenure Commission case against Kenneth Post**

"The case against Hudsonville District Court Judge Kenneth Post will be presided over by a retired judge who gained national attention for instituting a policy that punished people who wrote vulgarities on their check memos. Former Howell District Court Judge A. John Pikkarainen has been named as 'master' by the Michigan Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **State Bar of Michigan Blog: Supreme Court Appoints Special Master To Hear JTC Complaint Against Hudsonville Judge Who Held Lawyer in Contempt**

[Full story](#)

### **The Holland Sentinel: Friends in deed: Group helps kids by helping Court Appointed Special Advocate**

"Rick Mannes grew up in what he calls 'a pretty much perfect home'. He says the stable environment in his Zeeland household was likely the complete opposite of what many Ottawa County foster children experience."

[Full story](#)

### **The Ionia Sentinel-Standard: Michigan Legal Help Website Online Now For Michigan Residents; Offers Free Legal Information and Forms**

"A new legal Website, [www.michiganlegalhelp.org](http://www.michiganlegalhelp.org) offers information and many resources for Michigan residents who need to represent themselves in simple civil legal matters. The Michigan Legal Help Website is part of a pilot project overseen by the Solutions on SelfHelp Task Force. The Task Force was established in 2010 by (then) Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly to improve and coordinate resources for self-represented persons."

[Full story](#)

### **Lansing State Journal: East Lansing, reconsider district court merger; Benefits outweigh desires of one city**

The editorial states "One of the difficult things about regional cooperation is accepting that benefits may not accrue to all in obviously equal ways. Make no mistake, benefits do accrue to all. That's because everyone benefits when the entire region is stronger and focused on collective efficiency. With each layer of government fending for itself, the region is only as strong as its weakest member."

[Full story](#)

### **Ludington Daily News: Judge Raven endorses Nellis in probate race**

"Mason County Probate Judge Mark Raven is endorsing Ludington attorney Jeffrey Nellis in the Nov. 6 election that will select Raven's successor.... Raven chose not to seek re-election and is completing his third six-year term as Mason County's probate judge. Attorney Nick Krieger of Ludington also is seeking the seat. Since 2005, Krieger has been a judicial staff attorney to Judge Kathleen Jansen of the Michigan Court of Appeals where he has critiqued the arguments of appellate lawyers and has reviewed hundreds of probate and circuit court judgments from around the state."

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Award recipients announced**

"The following individuals are recipients of 2012 State Bar of Michigan Awards, which will be presented at a banquet on Sept. 19 at this year's Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids.... Roberts P. Hudson Award: Frederick M. Baker Jr.; Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award:... Hon. Willie G. Lipscomb Jr.;... Champion of Justice Award:... Hon. Karen M. Fort Hood;... The following individuals are recipients of State Bar Representative Assembly Awards, which will be presented at the Assembly's Sept. 20 meeting in Grand Rapids.... Michael Franck Award: Hon. James H. Fisher."

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Livingston County judge grants temporary restraining order against Enbridge Energy easement work**

"A Livingston County Circuit Court judge has issued a temporary restraining order against Enbridge Energy's work to install a new pipeline on the Tyrone Township property of Debora Hense."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon Chronicle: Supreme Court candidate brings campaign to West Michigan**

"Bridget Mary McCormack wants a new perspective on the Michigan Supreme Court. One of three candidates for the Supreme Court endorsed by the Democratic Party, McCormack, 46, has appeared regularly before the state's highest court as part of the clinical classes she teaches at University of Michigan Law School."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Niles Daily Star: Supreme Court candidate visits Niles**

[Full story](#)

### **Saginaw News: Michigan Court of Appeals upholds St. Charles man's conviction of raping 4-year-old girl**

"A St. Charles Township man serving a life sentence for sexually assaulting a 4-year-old girl will not get a new trial. The Michigan Court of Appeals last month upheld Bill E. Ostrander's January 2011 conviction of first-degree criminal sexual conduct against someone under the age of 13."

[Full story](#)